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*The History of Savings' Banks in the United Kingdom.* By JOHN TIDD PRATT, Esq., the Barrister-at-Law appointed to certify the Rules of Savings' Banks, &c.

UNDER the above title has been published a valuable compendium of the statistics of these institutions, from the date of their commencement on the 6th of August, 1817, to the 20th of November, 1841; and it will be found interesting to compare some of their results with the data contained in the preceding abstracts. Various attempts had been made to organize such institutions in the latter part of the last century, and the commencement of the present; the plan attained to some degree of perfection in 1810; and, previous to 1817, there were no fewer than 70 savings' banks in England, 4 in Wales, and 4 in Ireland. But it was not until 1817 that any legislative provisions were made relating to these institutions; and from this period their commencement is therefore officially dated. They are still based upon their original voluntary principles; but by successive statutes their affairs have been subjected to various salutary regulations, among which is one which compels the local trustees to invest the money of the depositors with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt; or, in other words, through their agency to invest it in the public funds; from which, however, each depositor can withdraw his share by withdrawing it from his savings' bank, at a very brief notice.

On the 20th of November, 1841, there were 555 savings' banks in the United Kingdom, with a capital of 24,474,689*l.*, in 841,204 accounts; and the value of government securities standing in the names of the Commissioners to answer this amount was 24,528,501*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* Owing, however, to the more popular character of the private banks in Scotland, which are used by a lower class of depositors than those of England, and the peculiar circumstances of the people of Ireland, where the number of poor in a position to make public savings is necessarily limited, savings' banks may be regarded as a peculiarly English institution; and their operation will be best understood by restricting the consideration of it to the same population which is contemplated in the preceding paper. In Scotland, with a population of 2,628,957, the number of savings' banks was only 28, with deposits amounting to 608,509*l.*, in 50,619 accounts; in Ireland, with about 8,000,000 inhabitants, there were 76, with 2,302,302*l.*, in 78,574 accounts; showing a difference in the average sum in each account, (12*l.* in Scotland, and 29*l.* in Ireland), which clearly indicates their use by different classes in the two countries; classes which it is probable have no exact counterpart whatever in England and Wales, which contained jointly, with a population of 15,922,923, 451\* savings' banks, having 21,563,878*l.*, in 712,011 accounts; the average amount in each being, therefore, somewhat more than 30*l.*

In England (including Guernsey and Jersey), with a population of 15,071,602, there were, on the 20th November, 1841, 428 Savings Banks, containing:—

\* In these totals are included five banks in England which do not appear in the following Tables.

Depositors.	Deposits.	Aggregate Amount.	Average Amount.
384,634 not exceeding	£20 each	£2,528,654	£ 6
175,697 „	50 „	5,438,897	30
76,498 „	100 „	5,283,164	69
26,483 „	150 „	3,191,335	116
14,849 „	200 „	2,533,055	170
2,836 exceeding	200 „	681,028	240
680,997 Individual Depositors		19,656,133	28
7,225 Friendly Societies		967,414	130
7,569 Charitable Societies		412,643	54
695,791 Accounts.	Total.	£21,036,190	£30

In Wales, with a population of 911,321, there were, on the 20th November, 1841, 23 Savings Banks, containing:—

Depositors.	Deposits.	Aggregate Amount.	Average Amount.
8,186 not exceeding	£20 each	£ 64,183	£ 7
4,835 „	50 „	149,576	30
1,769 „	100 „	122,307	69
545 „	150 „	65,278	119
236 „	200 „	40,062	161
54 exceeding	200 „	12,888	238
15,625 Individual Depositors		454,294	29
419 Friendly Societies		62,525	149
176 Charitable Societies		10,869	62
6,1220 Accounts.	Total.	£527,688	£32

The friendly societies included in the above statements are those only having funds deposited in savings' banks, exclusive of such as have funds deposited direct with the Commissioners, the number of which is 354, and the amount deposited 1,306,949*l.*: nearly all, if not all, the institutions making these separate deposits, belong to South Britain.

The annexed figures show a steady progress in the amount of deposits in the United Kingdom during the last five years of a commercial depression, which is here indicated, if at all, only by the somewhat slower increase of the deposits than of the number of depositors, as though the ability did not keep pace with the disposition to save.

*Number of Depositors and Amount of Deposits in the Savings' Banks of the United Kingdom in 1831, 1836, and 1841, with the per Centage of Increase in each period of five years.*

—	On 20th Nov., 1831.		On 20th Nov., 1836.				On 20th Nov., 1841.			
	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, including Interest.	Increase per Cent.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, including Interest.	Increase per Cent.		Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, including Interest.
			Depositors.	Deposits.			Depositors.	Deposits.		
		£.				£.				£.
Individual Depositors	430,166	13,739,907	36·6	28·1	587,488	17,705,228	40·3	29·8	824,162	22,915,940
Charitable Institutions	2,512	177,336	102·1	86·0	5,077	329,849	72·9	48·1	8,778	478,096
Friendly Societies	4,655	678,334	16·0	7·1	5,394	726,142	53·2	48·8	8,264	1,080,653
Total	437,333	14,595,577	36·7	28·5	597,959	18,761,219	40·6	30·4	841,204	24,474,689